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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/005,596	11/07/2001	Alex E. Henderson	21526-05579	8121

7590 06/29/2005
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN
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EXAMINER

QURESHI, AFSAR M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2667

DATE MAILED: 06/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/005,596

Applicant(s)

HENDERSON ET AL.

Examiner

Afsar M. Qureshi

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 December 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 and 19-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 and 19-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to grant of petition under 37 CFR 1.137 (b), dated March 18, 2005 and amendment entered dated December 23, 2004. Claim 18 is cancelled. Claims 1-17, 19-22 remain in application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-17, 19-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Michels et al. (US 6,161,144).

Claims 1, 2, 12 and 17. Michels et al. ('Michels' hereinafter) disclose a network switching device 50 (figure 3), receiving network frames and passing the frames to the plurality of search engines 66... (Search resources). The search engines determine ports for frames (see fig. 5, also see col. 1, lines 55-61) and transmit the search response, based on the packet request, to the forwarding ports. Michels does not specifically disclose a parser generating packet search request. However, as one of ordinary skill in the art would realize that any router, switch or network (see figure 3) can be utilized for generating and forwarding a search request via media interface 56 (fig.3).

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Claims 3 and 4 Michels further discloses that media interface 56 reformats the frames in response to modification request from the network (see col. 4, lines 46-65).

Claims 5-6. Michels discloses a management processor coupled to search engines that maintains the lookup table in memories 58, 70 (fig.3) wherein search, by search engine, is performed depending on entries in the lookup table (shortest queue).

As to claim 6, already discussed that the media interface 56 allows the search engine to transmit the modified frames to particular network depending on decision logic 72 (col. 6, lines 29-57).

Claim 7. All the limitations, including packet resources (network) are already discussed in the rejection of claim1 above.

Claims 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 19, 21 and 22. Michels discloses that requests are made for packet search and to reformat or modify the packet based on search (see rejection of claims 3 and 4). A request to modify is inherent. Further, media interface 56 can functionally be considered as session device sending group of packets that are transmitted to another device or computer in the network (see col. 4, lines 58-65)

Claim 9. Network receiving packets via media interface 56 is already discussed in the rejection of claim1 above.

Claim 14. As discussed above forwarding decision logic 72 (fig.3) receives packet response from search engine (second means) and forwards the frames to the requested ports (see col. 6, lines 20-28).

Claim 20. As discussed in the rejection of claim 1 above, the network switching device 50, disclosed by Michels, is used to transmit the packet response from the packet resource to the network (see figure 5).

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Muller et al. (US 5,938,736) disclose switch fabric including multiplayer switch search engine. The switch engine is configured to schedule and perform accesses to the forwarding database and to transfer data packets to the destination ports.

Beauvois (US 6,556,671) discloses routing system using parsed input and performs a data search and then routes the communication events to the appropriate ports.

Hendel et al. (US 5,920,566) disclose a routine system configured to identify multicast packets for routing purposes, modify the packets and forward the packets to the next loop.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on December 23, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. A further review of the cited prior art, as above, is found to


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anticipate limitations of all the claims rejected herein including claims cited as allowable in previous Office action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Afsar M. Qureshi whose telephone number is (571) 272 3178.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chi Pham can be reached on (571) 272 3179. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273 8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


AFSAR QURESHI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

June 22, 2005